

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A tool ~~[[(1)]]~~ for surfacing an optical surface ~~[[(2)]]~~, ~~which said tool comprises~~ comprising:
a rigid support ~~[[(4)]]~~ having a transverse end surface ~~[[(13)]]~~;

a return spring means connected to said support;

an elastically compressible interface ~~[[(5)]]~~ that is pressed against and covers said end surface ~~[[(13)]]~~; and

a flexible buffer ~~[[(16)]]~~ adapted to be pressed against the optical surface ~~[[(2)]]~~ and which is pressed against and covers at least part of the interface ~~[[(5)]]~~ on the side opposite to and in line with said end surface ~~[[(13)]]~~,

~~characterized in that wherein~~ the buffer has a central portion ~~[[(6a)]]~~ that is in line with said end surface ~~[[(13)]]~~ and a peripheral portion ~~[[(14)]]~~ that is transversely beyond said end surface, said tool being structured and arranged for surfacing substantially at the central portion, ~~(13)~~ and

said return spring means ~~[[(15)]]~~ join this joining said peripheral portion ~~[[(14)]]~~ to the support, said peripheral portion and said return spring means forming, in combination, a means for stabilizing the tool during surfacing ~~[[(4)]]~~.

2. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the buffer $[(6)]$ is of one-piece construction, the central portion $[(6a)]$ and peripheral portion $[(14)]$ forming a single component $[(6)]$.

3. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the buffer $[(6)]$ comprises a plurality of petals $[(14b)]$ projecting transversely from the central portion $[(6a)]$.

4. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said peripheral portion $[(14)]$ takes the form of a ring $[(14a)]$ around the central portion $[(6a)]$.

5. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the buffer $[(6)]$ is of one-piece construction and when unstressed assumes the shape of a disc.

6. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the interface $[(5)]$ has a central portion $[(5a)]$ that is in line with said end surface $[(13)]$ and a peripheral portion $[(16)]$ that is transversely beyond

said end surface [(13)] and is between the peripheral portion [(14)] of the buffer [(6)] and the return means [(15)].

7. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the peripheral portion [(16)] of the interface [(5)] when unstressed assumes the shape of a ring around the central portion [(5a)] of the interface [(5)].

8. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that it further comprises~~ further comprising a deformable ring [(17)] transversely around the support [(4)] and between the peripheral portion [(16)] of the interface [(5)] and the return means [(15)].

9. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ring [(17)] has a circular longitudinal section.

10. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the interface [(5)] is of one-piece construction and its central portion [(5a)] and peripheral portion [(16)] form a single component [(5)].

11. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein when unstressed the interface ~~[[5]]~~ assumes the shape of a disc.

12. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said return means ~~[[15]]~~ comprise a leaf spring ~~[[18]]~~ projecting transversely from the support ~~[[4]]~~.

13. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said leaf spring ~~[[18]]~~ is joined to the support ~~[[4]]~~ at a first end ~~[[18a]]~~ and to the peripheral portion ~~[[14]]~~ of the buffer ~~[[6]]~~ at a second end ~~[[18b]]~~.

14. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said leaf spring ~~[[18]]~~ is rigidly anchored in the support ~~[[4]]~~ at its first end ~~[[18a]]~~.

15. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the return means ~~[[15]]~~ comprise a star-shaped component ~~[[19]]~~ fixed to the support ~~[[4]]~~ and provided with branches ~~[[18]]~~ each forming a leaf spring ~~[[18]]~~.

16. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support $[(4)]$ comprises two jaws ~~(7, 8)~~ fixed together, the star-shaped part $[(19)]$ having a central portion $[(20)]$ that is clamped between the two jaws ~~(7, 8)~~ and from which its branches $[(18)]$ project.

17. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the buffer $[(6)]$ is of one-piece construction and comprises a plurality of petals $[(14b)]$ projecting transversely from its central portion $[(6a)]$ and each branch $[(18)]$ is in line with a petal $[(14b)]$.

18. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising seven said petals $[(17b)]$ and seven said branches $[(18)]$.

19. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the end surface $[(13)]$ of the support $[(4)]$ is plane.

20. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the end surface $[(13)]$ of the support $[(4)]$ is convex.

21. (currently amended) Tool according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the end surface ~~[(13)]~~ of the support ~~[(4)]~~ is concave.

22. (new) A tool for surfacing an optical surface, said tool comprising:

a rigid support having a transverse end surface and that is rotatable about a first axis;

a return spring connected to said rigid support;

an elastically compressible element that is pressed against and covers said end surface; and

a flexible buffer element adapted to be pressed against the optical surface and which contacts and covers at least part of the compressible element on a side opposite to and in line with said end surface,

wherein said buffer element has a central portion that is aligned with said end surface and a peripheral portion that extends transversely beyond said end surface, said return spring joining said peripheral portion to said rigid support, and

wherein said first axis is permanently colinear or substantially colinear with a normal to the optical surface.